AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph found from page 1, line 19 through page 2, line 5 as follows:

The application EP 0 405 ~~348~~ <u>384</u> A2 discloses an apparatus for estimating communication link quality, wherein a communication link quality estimator is described and for a link a M-ary modulation scheme is employed. The link quality estimator is employed at the receiver, which includes a M-ary decoder responsive to received M-ary symbol channel bits for decoding the M-ary symbol into a set of M-ary decoded bits. The link quality estimator includes a time delay circuit for providing a version of the received channel bit M-ary symbol delayed in time by one symbol period. The link quality estimator converts the set of M-ary decoded bits into an auxiliary M-ary channel bit symbol representation in accordance with the M-ary modulation scheme, and compares on a bit-by-bit basis the delayed version of the received channel bit symbol and the auxiliary symbol representation. Detected errors are counted and averaged over a fixed block length to provide a bit error rate estimator.